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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

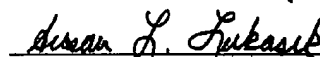
APPLICANT: Brian Lutz **EXAMINER:** Ching Chang
SERIAL NO.: 10/016,563 **GROUP ART UNIT:** 3748
FILED: October 30, 2001 **ATTY DKT NO.:** D5235
TITLE: VALVE ACTUATION LINKAGE MECHANISM

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER M.P.E.P. §512

I hereby certify that this 9-page Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111, including 3 pages of replacement claims and paragraphs of specification, for a total of 9 pages are being sent via facsimile to the United States patent and Trademark Office on July 2, 2003 to (703) 872-9302.

Date: July 2, 2003

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Susan L. Lukasik

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

JUL 02 2003

GROUP 3700

AMENDMENT/RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2003 (Paper No. 3) in the above captioned matter, please enter the following amendment and response:

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraphs 21, 22, and paragraph 35 as follows:

[0021] The rocker arm 40 of the valve actuation linkage mechanism 300 shown in Figure 3 retains substantially the same function and physical configuration as existing prior art rocker arms 40 (shown in Figure 1). The rocker arm 40 will cooperate with the pivot rod 320 in the valve actuation linkage mechanism 300 to actuate the valve bridge 310. The novel pivot foot preferably comprises a pivot rod head 329, a pivot rod neck 327, and a pivot rod body 325 with a pivot rod bottom 425 (shown in Figure 4). The pivot rod head 329 preferably has a curved shape in the form of a "mushroom" head. In this manner, the pivot rod head 329 will